

Message Text

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ACTION SIL-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 ACDA-07 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 NEA-10 DHA-02
COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 /102 W
-----140429Z 079163 /15

R 121620Z MAY 77
FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3780
INFO ALL EC CAPITALS
USMISSION GENEVA

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E. O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PLAB, ILO, SHUM
SUBJECT: WORLD CONFEDERATION OF LABOR AND ILO ISSUES

1. IN COURSE OF A BRIEFING MAY 12 FOR BRUSSELS-BASED LABOR ATTACHES, JAN KULAKOWSKI, GENERAL SECRETARY OF WORLD CONFEDERATION OF LABOR (WCL), WAS ASKED ABOUT THE WCL POSITION ON CURRENT ISSUES FACING THE INTERNATIONAL LABOR ORGANIZATION (ILO). KULAKOWSKI SAID THAT THE APRIL 25-29 WCL CONFEDERAL BOARD DISCUSSED ILO QUESTIONS, AND HE THEN TURNED TO HIS COLLEAGUE, GERARS FONTENEAU, TO PROVIDE A SUMMARY.

2. FONTENEAU, WHO IS THE WCL ASSISTANT GENERAL SECRETARY FOR EUROPE, SAID THAT AT THE NEXT INTERNATIONAL LABOR CONFERENCE THE WCL WOULD PUSH THREE RESOLUTIONS, WITH RENE SALANNE OF THE FRENCH CFDT AS ONE OF THE FORMAL SPONSORS. ACCORDING TO FONTENEAU, THE RESOLUTIONS WOULD DEAL WITH:

A. TRADE UNION FREEDOM IN THE WORLD, WITH A PROPOSAL TO MODIFY THE PROCEDURES OF THE ILO COMMITTEE ON APPLICATION OF CONVENTIONS TO PERMIT MORE EXPEDITIOUS HANDLING OF
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PROBLEM CASES.

B. MULTINATIONAL CORPORATIONS.

C. WORLD DISARMAMENT, INCLUDING A PROPOSAL ON REEMPLOYMENT OF WORKERS NOW ENGAGED IN ARMS INDUSTRIES.

3. FONTENEAU POLITELY TURNED ASIDE A REQUEST FOR THE TEXTS, AND SAID THEY WOULD BE AVAILABLE JUST BEFORE THE JUNE ILO CONFERENCE.

4. ON THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT OF ARTICLE 17 OF THE CONFERENCE'S STANDING ORDERS TO CUT DOWN ON EXTRANEIOUS POLITICAL RESOLUTIONS, FONTENEAU SAID THAT IN THE WCL'S VIEW THERE HAS BEEN NO "EXCESSIVE POLITICIZATION OF THE ILO," AND THAT THEREFORE THE WCL DOES NOT FAVOR A MODIFICATION OF ARTICLE 17. THIS POSITION, FONTENEAU IMPLIED, REFLECTS THE STRONG VIEWS OF WCL BOARD MEMBER SALANNE, WHO APPARENTLY TOOK THE SAME POSITION AT THE LAST ILO GOVERNING BODY MEETING. AS NOW WRITTEN, THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT WOULD PREVENT AN ILO CONFERENCE FROM REACTING RAPIDLY TO NEW DEVELOPMENTS, SUCH AS A COUP D'ETAT RESULTING IN WHOLESAL JAILING OF TRADE UNION LEADERS, FONTENEAU SAID.

5. HE ADDED THAT THE WCL HAD A "FLEXIBLE" POSITION ON THE MATTER, HOWEVER, IF ARTICLE 17 IS INDEED MODIFIED, FONTENEAU SAID, THE LANGUAGE SHOULD INSURE THAT THE CONFERENCE COULD REACT TO A NEW, SERIOUS VIOLATION OF TRADE UNION FREEDOM.

6. FROM THIS AND OTHER STATEMENTS AT THE BRIEFING, IT APPEARS LIKELY THAT WCL PEOPLE AT THE CONFERENCE WILL MAKE STRONG STATEMENTS ON TRADE UNION FREEDOM, TO INCLUDE CRITICAL COMMENTS ON EASTERN EUROPE. FONTENEAU SAID THAT THE WCL FAVORED THE "DEPOLITIZATION" LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OF THE COMMITTEE ON APPLICATION OF CONVENTIONS. BY THIS THE WCL MEANS THAT THE COMMITTEE SHOULD CONDEMN VIOLATIONS OF TRADE UNION FREEDOM WHEREVER THEY OCCUR, FONTENEAU SAID, BUT DID NOT PROVIDE FURTHER DETAILS, SUGGESTING THIS WAS A MATTER FOR ANOTHER WCL LEADER, JEF HOUTHUYS OF THE BELGIAN CSC, WHO HAS BEEN CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE ON APPLICATION OF CONVENTIONS.

7. IN REPLY TO A QUESTION, KULAKOWSKI SAID THAT THE WCL DID NOT TAKE ANY POSITION ON "CLOSING THE BOOK" ON THE 1974 CONFERENCE RESOLUTION CONDEMNING ISRAEL. FONTENEAU DOUBTED THAT THIS QUESTION WOULD BE A BIG ISSUE AT THE CONFERENCE--"THERE HAVE BEEN CHANGES" IN THE ARAB WORLD, HE SAID.HINTON

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 12-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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